

51 reported killed in Afghan bombing

PESHAWAR (R) — Fifty-one people were killed and 105 injured on Monday when warplanes bombed a Pakistani village near the Afghan border, Pakistani local authorities said. The political agent for Kurram Agency, a wild, mountainous region west of Peshawar, told Reuters four planes came over the border from Afghanistan just after mid-day and bombed the village of Teri Mangal. Fifty people, Afghan refugees and Pakistanis, were killed and 101 injured in the raid, he said by telephone from Peshawar. The agent, the chief Pakistani official for Kurram Agency, said four planes made a second attack three-and-a-half hours later. In this assault one person was killed and four injured. But the death toll could rise as many buildings were destroyed and people could have been buried in the rubble, he said. No reaction from Afghanistan's Soviet-backed authorities was immediately available. Pakistan said planes of the Communist-led Afghan government made two bombing raids into Pakistan on Feb. 26 and 27, one of them in Kurram Agency. Some 90 people were killed and 250 injured in the attacks, according to Pakistani officials.

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جريدة تايمز يومية مستقلة نشرتها مؤسسة الصحفة الاردنية (الراي)

8 killed in Indian election violence

NEW DELHI (R) — At least eight people were killed and 130 injured on Monday as three of India's 24 states went to the polls in elections considered Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's toughest popularity test yet, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. PTI said all the killings took place in the southern state of Kerala, but there was also scattered violence in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir, the two other states where polling took place in elections for state assemblies. PTI reported high turnouts in the three states, in which 54 million people were eligible to vote. It said eight people were stabbed, beaten or stoned to death and 100 injured in unprecedented election violence in Kerala between rival supporters of the ruling coalition led by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party and a communist led-front. Mr. Gandhi's party is facing a major challenge from the leftist front in Kerala, the last state it controls in southern India. PTI said arson and looting was under way in the Kerala village of Chittum in after five leftist party workers were killed there by Congress militants. In Calcutta, capital of West Bengal, police fired tear gas and two shots in the air to stop a street battle pitting 50 supporters of the ruling Marxist-led front against 50 Congress militants, officials told Reuters.

King sends good wishes to Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a cable to Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq congratulating him on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day. In his cable, King Hussein said the strong spirit of cooperation and the brotherly relations existing between Jordan and Pakistan would be strengthened to serve the interests of both Jordan and Pakistan as well as the Muslim World.

AOAS chief reelected
AOABA (J.T.) — Dr. Nasser Sayegh was re-elected as director general of the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) for a new four-year term. Dr. Sayegh was elected during a meeting here for the organisation's board of directors.

Iraq reshuffles cabinet

NICOSIA (AP) — Issam Abdul Rahim was appointed as Iraq's oil minister in a limited reshuffle of the cabinet in Baghdad Monday, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Mr. Abdul Rahim, who was the undersecretary at the Oil Ministry, replaces Qassem Ahmad Taqi who became minister of heavy industries. Mr. Taqi replaced Subhi Yassin, who was appointed advisor at the presidency office, said the agency. Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim was relieved of his post as minister of transport.

Council meets on private sector health

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council of Health on Monday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and discussed issues pertaining to the proposed health insurance scheme for the private sector. The council noted that the Social Security Corporation law provides for applying health insurance to SSC subscribers at a later stage. In the light of this, the council decided to form an ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr. Hamzeh and grouping the president of the University of Jordan and the president of the Jordan Medical Association, to take up the issue with the board of directors of the SSC and its director general.

Arafat sends message to Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official arrived here on Monday with a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, officials said. Foreign Ministry officials said the message carried by Mr. Arafat's political adviser Ham Al Hassan dealt with the latest Palestinian developments.

Brandt resigns as party chief

BONN (AP) — Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor and a Nobel Peace prize winner, resigned Monday as chairman of the opposition Social Democrat. Mr. Brandt, who had led Germany's oldest political party since 1964, quit amid a party uproar over his selection of a Greek woman and non-party member, Margarita Mathiopoulos, as the Social Democrats' new chief spokesman.

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Masri: Jordan will not accept int'l conference as a cover for direct talks

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan is continuing dialogue with the U.S. administration on convening an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and rejects any concept that reduces such a conference to "a cover for direct negotiations" with no real effective role, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday.

Despite the differing views of Jordan and the U.S. over the issue, Amman and Washington are continuing the dialogue with the ultimate aim of convening the proposed conference in its proper form, Mr. Masri told an informal gathering of local and foreign journalists.

"The dialogue will not stop," said Mr. Masri. "We shall find other ways to intensify efforts at higher levels to change the minds of the Americans," he said.

American officials have repeatedly said that the U.S. was seeking direct negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab states and have expressed no real enthusiasm for the conference idea as proposed by Jordan.

Mr. Masri noted that while the U.S. had not accepted the proposal in its form it had also not rejected it either. Washington "is not categorically rejecting the proposal but they (American offi-

(Continued on page 3)

UAE urges EC bid for Mideast peace

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) told France on Monday the 12th European Community (EC) should make rapid efforts to advance peace in the Middle East, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said.

WAM said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan made the point in talks with visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. It said Sheikh Zayed expressed appreciation for France's role within the EC, which backs proposals for an international Middle East peace conference.

Sheikh Zayed said French efforts to advance international peace and stability had won it a special place in the Middle East and he urged Paris to "continue to play a just and unbiased policy to support causes of truth and justice."

Mr. Raimond arrived from Oman on Monday for a two-day official visit. WAM said his talks

with Sheik Zayed touched on the Iran-Iraq war, Middle East peace efforts, the situation in Lebanon and ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

Mr. Raimond told reporters in Muscat Sunday night that France was deeply concerned about the Iran-Iraq war and that its attempts to improve ties with Tehran would not alter good relations with Arab states. He also said France was exerting efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East.

France and the UAE expressed concern over the recent escalation of the war and attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf, WAM said.

In talks between Mr. Raimond and the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid Abdallah Al Nuaimi, the sides called for an immediate end to the conflict, now in its seventh year. WAM said Mr. Raimond briefed the UAE on French

efforts to advance Middle East peace and underlined support for the formation of an international committee to prepare a conference, proposed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last July.

The UAE expressed appreciation for France's policy on the Palestinian issue and urged Paris to step up efforts to help achieve a solution that guarantees the Palestinians' right to self-determination, it added.

In a separate development, Kuwait and Guinea also called for an end to the Gulf war.

That call was made by Guinean

President Lansana Conte and the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Al Ahmad Al Sabah at the end of a three-day visit to the emirate by the African leader.

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf said Sunday that Mr. Raimond sought to assure the leaders of Oman and the UAE that France would contribute to efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the war.

Mr. Raimond had asked him about a call by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater to refrain from criticising U.S. leaders while on foreign soil.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker said later Mr. Carter was out of line in attacking Mr. Reagan's policies in Cairo and Damascus.

They flew in Mr. Assad's airiner, a Soviet-built TU-134B, on the third day of their visit to Syria, the second stop in a tour of the Middle East and North Africa.

Syrian sources said that from Latakia, 230 kilometres north of Damascus, the Carters will drive to Qardaha, Mr. Assad's home village just outside the city.

Mr. Carter declined to say whether he had discussed with Mr. Assad efforts to free American and other foreign hostages held by extremists in Lebanon.

He met with Mr. Assad Sunday, a day after he urged the Syrian leader, the main power broker in Lebanon, to use his influence to secure the release of the hostages.

"They have extended my life... I am in good health and well treated," said Mr. Norman on the tape, delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

Last Tuesday the Revolutionary Justice Organisation said it had postponed by Mr. Norman on the tape, delivery of his "execution" by one week.

On Sunday, Mr. Carter shrugged off White House criticism of remarks accusing his successor President Ronald Reagan of fail-

School for disabled hit in Israeli air raid in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel on Monday launched its second air raid in four days against South Lebanon, devastating a house used by Palestinians and hitting an empty school for handicapped Palestinian children.

Police said two fighters were slightly injured when four U.S.-built F-15s dropped implosion or vacuum bombs in and around a Palestinian camp in the Darb Al Sim area east of Sidon.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said projectiles devastated a two-storey building used by Palestinian fighters, while other bombs blasted a nearby school for handicapped Palestinian children.

The school lies about 75 metres from the Palestinian centre, but no children were caught in the attack.

"There were no casualties in the school, because none of the 75 children had arrived there at the time of the raid," one resident told Reuters.

In Tel Aviv, a military spokesman claimed the building hit in the raid was used by commandos to plan attacks on Israel.

It was the eighth Israeli raid on Lebanon this year and it came four days after another air strike on Palestinians in the same area wounded one Palestinian fighter.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying in Mashhad, northeast Iran: "If we have missiles in our possession this does not mean we intend to create insecurity in the region."

"Rather, it is the U.S. presence in the Gulf region which creates insecurity."

BAGHDAD Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying scores of fighters hit the Nowrouz field 56 kilometres off the Iranian coast in the northern waters of the Gulf in two raids at 9 a.m.

It said the oil platforms were "shattered."



KING AWARDS WINNERS: His Majesty King Hussein presents awards to winners of the 3rd (Petra photo) (3) (Petra photo)

Iraqis bomb Iranian oilfields; Iran assails U.S. over warships

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq

said its warplanes bombed two of Iran's offshore oilfields on Monday, escalating an air offensive against Iran's economic jugular and sharpening tension over the deployment of anti-ship missiles in the southern end of the Gulf.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei accused the United States of creating insecurity in the Gulf by deploying warships to counter the siting of the missiles at the mouth of the Gulf in the

Strait of Hormuz.

The Iraqi air force, which had been diverted to counter the Iranian threats, has in recent weeks attacked Iranian tankers.

At least 15 Iranian tankers have been hit this year, the latest on Saturday.

Lloyd's of London Monday identified the vessel as the 162,046-ton Avaj owned by the state-run National Iranian Tanker Co. and said one crewman was killed in the attack.

Baghdad Radio quoted the spokesman as saying the raids Sunday and Monday were part of a "continuing effort to deprive Iran's rulers of their oil which they use for aggressive purposes."

The Iraqi air force, which had been diverted to counter the Iranian threats, has in recent weeks attacked Iranian tankers.

"Iran therefore warns America and other foreign powers that any interference by them... will be met by a strong response from Iran and other Muslims in the world."

There was no independent confirmation of the latest raids or comment from Tehran.

Iran's vital oil exports are its main source of revenue to pay for the 6½-year-old war that costs an estimated \$1 billion a month.

The latest Iraqi attacks heightened alarm over Iran's reported deployment of Chinese-made anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, the southern gateway to the Gulf.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in Washington Sunday that America was ready to use force to keep the Gulf open to shipping in the face of Iran's deployment of the HY-2 missiles, the Chinese version of the Soviets' SS-N-2 weapon.

Tehran Radio quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Sunday that Iran "will decisively counter any foreign powers' presence that leads to increasing instability and tension in the region."

"Iran therefore warns America and other foreign powers that any interference by them... will be met by a strong response from Iran and other Muslims in the world."

Coup attempt reportedly foiled in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN (R) — Forces loyal to President Joseph Momoh foiled an attempted coup in Sierra Leone early Monday, government sources said.

The revolt was apparently led by senior police officers and there was a gunbattle in the west of capital Freetown, the sources said.

There were no immediate reports of the incident in the official news media.

The revolt included an unsuccessful raid on a military arsenal in Freetown and a police officer's driver was shot dead during the early morning gunbattle, the sources said. Details of these incidents were unclear.

Police and troops patrolled the centre of Freetown, which has a population around 300,000, and there was no sign of further trouble.

President Momoh summoned all top ranking police and army officers for discussions Monday morning, government sources said.

Mr. Momoh, a career soldier who had been commander of the army, took over in this former British colony in November 1985 in one of Africa's relatively rare peaceful transfers of power.

The action by Libya is "descriptive and in violation of Sudan's territorial integrity," the agency quoted Mr. Mahdi as saying.

"The government has decided to give the Libyan forces a time limit to withdraw or else."

He did not specify how much time he would give the Libyans to leave or what his government would do if they refuse.

Khartoum has also complained to Paris that French jets, helping the forces of Chadian President Hissene Habre in their war against Libya, had crossed into Sudan in the past few days (See page 2).

"French aircraft have violated Sudanese airspace to watch Libyan troops," Mr. Mahdi said.

Carter visits Latakia after shrugging off new criticism

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter flew to the Mediterranean city of Latakia Monday for a sightseeing tour after two meetings with President Hafez Al Assad on international affairs, the Middle East and Lebanon.

Mr. Carter and his wife Rosalynn were accompanied on the flight to Latakia, one of Syria's main ports, by Mr. Assad's protocol chief, Hassib Istwani.

They flew in Mr. Assad's airiner, a Soviet-built TU-134B, on the third day of their visit to Syria, the second stop in a tour of the Middle East and North Africa.

Syrian sources said that from Latakia, 230 kilometres north of Damascus, the Carters will drive to Qardaha, Mr. Assad's home village just outside the city.

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On Sunday, Mr. Carter shrugged off White House criticism of remarks accusing his successor President Ronald Reagan of fail-

"I think that was unfortunate and I think it was a mistake."

Mr. Carter has said Mr. Reagan had failed to focus the attention on the Middle East that was evident during Mr. Carter's administration and those of his predecessors, Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Mr. Baker said a State Department official had been sent to his home in Georgia especially to brief Mr. Carter before the former president left for the visit that also includes stopovers in Algeria, Jordan and Israel.

"Though we will not be a party to them, the whole

Chadians celebrate capture of Libyan base at Ouadi Doum

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Several thousand cheering Chadians gathered in Independence Square Monday to mark their support for President Hissene Habre and celebrate the victory of government troops in a battle for the Libyan air base at Ouadi Doum.

The military command reported Sunday night that its troops had ousted the Libyans from the huge base in northern Chad after a brief but extremely violent struggle. The victory was confirmed by the French Defence Ministry in Paris.

There were still no details of the battle nor casualty counts, which officials said would be published later. But the military command said Libyan losses would be "heavy" given the violence of the fighting over what officials called the "gigantesque and monstrous stronghold" constructed by Libya."

The base at Ouadi Doum was built by Libya between 1983 and 1986, was heavily manned and contained both radar and missile installations. It's 3,800-metre runway is capable of handling the largest military transports and the facility was Libya's main supply base for its occupying forces.

Libya claims it has no troops in Chad and says fighting is between government forces and Chadian rebels. The majority of the rebels have gone over to the government, however. The French and the Americans, who back Mr. Habre, estimate there are more than 11,000 Libyans in the north, including several thousand at Ouadi Doum.

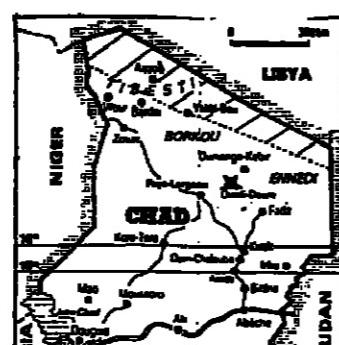
"Recapture all of Barkou-Ennedi-Tibesti," chanted the crowd in central N'Djamena, referring to the three provinces that make up the northern half of the country, occupied by Libya since 1973.

The rally was held in the presence of numerous political and military leaders, including Foreign Minister Goumou Lassou, representing the president.

"Soon, we will liberate Aouzou," said Mr. Lassou, referring to the 114,000-square-kilometre strip of territory across the top of Chad unilaterally annexed by Libya in 1973. "Soon it will be the final assault."

Ouadi Doum was one of three main Libyan bases in northern Chad. On Jan. 2, loyalist forces captured the oasis of Fada in the north east. The taking of Ouadi Doum about 7 p.m. Sunday leaves Faya Largeau, the administrative capital of the region, the main Libyan stronghold with a force estimated at several thousand.

The official Libyan News Agency JANA quoted rebel forces in Chad as saying they



defeated the attack on Ouadi Doum.

"The piles of corpses of French and Zairian troops and the remains of the agent Habre's soldiers and the scorched American and French vehicles are still there at the Ouadi providing testimony to the abominable defeat suffered by the invading imperialist forces," the agency quoted a rebel spokesman as saying.

France has about 2,000 troops in Chad, a former French colony. Most of the French troops are with air force units and radar installations in the south.

France has said it will not get directly involved in the fighting unless the Libyans advance south of the 16th parallel, which divides Chad into the government-controlled south and Libyan-occupied north.

France has twice bombed the Ouadi Doum base in retaliation for Libyan attacks below the line.

Both France and the United States have been providing Mr. Habre with arms and supplies.

The latest fighting began Dec. 21 when Col. Qadhafi sent troops into the Tibesti Mountains to subdue rebels who had switched to the government side.

from Fada, killing 784 of its defenders and taking more than 100 prisoners.

There also have been continuing government reports of battles between Mr. Habre's forces and Libyans and bombing at various localities in the north western Tibesti Mountains.

Col. Qadhafi withdrew his support last fall from the major rebel leader, former President Goumou Oueddei, whose fighters then switched to the government side. Col. Qadhafi then expressed support for Achilek Ibn Oumar as leader of Mr. Goumou's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT). Achilek is not believed to have a significant military force.

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The latest fighting began Dec. 21 when Col. Qadhafi sent troops into the Tibesti Mountains to subdue rebels who had switched to the government side.

France has said it will not get directly involved in the fighting unless the Libyans advance south of the 16th parallel, which divides Chad into the government-controlled south and Libyan-occupied north.

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Jordan commemorates World Meteorology Day with pomp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorology Department Monday marked the World Meteorology Day by holding a special celebration under the theme: "Meteorology as an example of international cooperation."

The celebration was inaugurated by Ministry of Transport Under Secretary Mu'taz Al Bileisi, who deputised for Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhaqan. Mr. Bileisi toured the meteorology exhibition, organised by the department.

The exhibition includes weather maps, sketches, satellite photographs, facsimile machines, teleprinters and telecommunications equipment. The exhibition also includes a station for receiving information through satellites and monitoring equipment, in addition to astronomical telescope.

Meteorology Director General Ali Abada briefed the audience on the functions of the equipment on display and on the preparation of weather forecasts.

Jordan is celebrating this day along with the other members of the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), according to Dr. Abada. WMO was established in

Jordan to observe U.N. volunteers' day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jan. 5 will be observed in Jordan as an international volunteer day, in response to a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, according to an announcement by the Cabinet here Monday.

The announcement said that the government has endorsed the idea and it is naming Jan. 5 as international volunteer day, thus responding to a U.N. call to promote the work of voluntary organisations, serving the cause of social and economic development.

The department, he added, has advanced equipment, including radio-sound equipment, and maritime and agricultural meteorological stations.

Speaking about his department's plans, Dr. Abada said the department is currently considering the establishment of a national centre for weather forecasts at Amman civil airport and will supply it with the necessary equipment, including computers and telecommunication equipment for satellites.

The celebration was attended by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, director of Amman police, and senior officials from the Transport Ministry, and the Civil Aviation and Meteorology department.

Islamic board to produce language programmes

CAIRO (Petra) — The board of directors of the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation has endorsed an Egyptian proposal for producing educational programmes designed to teach Arabic to non-Arab speakers to help non-Arab Muslims to learn more about the Islamic religion, according to Mr. Masoud Al Majali, director general of the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation.

The announcement said that the government has endorsed the idea and it is naming Jan. 5 as international volunteer day, thus responding to a U.N. call to promote the work of voluntary organisations, serving the cause of social and economic development.

A special committee from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt has been formed to prepare the initial stages for this project, which, he said, is expected to cost \$600,000, half of which will be covered by Egypt.

The board of directors also endorsed the organisation's various activities and programmes to be exchanged among the organisation's member states, as well as a number of important amendments to the organisation's basic by-laws, and financial and administrative measures, Mr. Majali said. In addition, he said, the board approved the organisation's general budget for 1987.

The board of directors groups representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, South Yemen, Morocco, Palestine, Pakistan, Malaysia, Niger, Libya, in addition to the organisation's general secretariat.

King, Queen watch colourful aerobatics to honour racers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — They looped, dived, and circled, leaving distinct trails of colourful flares behind in a show of the high standard of control and perfection.

Three young Jordanian pilots, members of the Royal Falcons, staged a daring aerobatic show on Monday, and pushed their light aircraft to extremes, receiving cheerful applause from the audience which included the crews of the Paris-Peking-Paris air race who arrived in Amman on Saturday evening and early Sunday morning. The air race crews will fly to Rome Wednesday, the penultimate leg of their trip.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, members of the royal family, and Cabinet members watch the aerobatic show to honour the Paris-Peking-Paris air racers, held at the Amman military airport on Monday (Petra photos).



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, members of the royal family, and Cabinet members watch the aerobatic show to honour the Paris-Peking-Paris air racers, held at the Amman military airport on Monday (Petra photos).

Snacks and beverage were distributed at the end of the ceremony which was organised by the Royal Jordanian. King Hussein and Queen Noor made a tour of the planes competing to win the air race, which were parked on the tarmac.

Mr. Bernard Lamy, the race organiser, said in a speech he hoped a Jordanian crew would take part in the next air race which is expected to kick off from Paris two years from now.

Microjet Mamouth, captained by Raymond Michel with co-pilot Remi Grasset, leads the race which is expected to end on March 30. Microjet is an old light aircraft rebuilt to enter long-distance races. Italia Wings, a Cessna 310, is second; the Manpower, another Cessna 310 piloted by Delio Iglesias and Jean-Claude Lasse, is in third position.

Seminar examines effectiveness of Arab investment free zones

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh opened in Amman Monday a three-day seminar on Arab free zones which is being organised by the Jordanian Free Zones Corporation (JFZC) in cooperation with the Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC).

In an address to the opening session, the minister underlined the importance of the free zones, areas free from normal regulations and taxes, and their role in attracting foreign capital to help finance trade and industrial operations.

Indonesia is also a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Jordan hopes to increase its sales of phosphates to Jakarta from the present level of 500,000 tonnes for 1986 to 900,000 tonnes for this year.

Jordanian imports from Indonesia include timber, coffee, tea, textiles and fabrics.

Accompanying Mr. Saqqaf on his 10-day trip are Mr. Assem Al Hindawi, director of the Trade Ministry's department for developing economic cooperation and increasing imports, and Mr. Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Wanas Al Hindawi, senior officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company respectively.

government experts who are exchanging views about the benefits and costs of free zones for investment purposes, Mr. Hassan added.

Working session

Later, the first working session was held, and Director General of the JFZC Yassin Al Kayed reviewed problems and difficulties facing investment in free zones in Jordan, and means of countering these problems.

Mr. Kayed's review was followed by a study prepared by the director general of the Egyptian Studies and Researches Department at the General Investments and Free Zones Corporation, Dr. Wahib Wahbe'. Dr. Wahbe's study sheds light on experiences of eight Arab countries — Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Djibouti, Syria, Egypt, Morocco and Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen. The study showed that the JFZC contribution to the GDI during the period from 1974 to 1984 was 12 per cent.

Directors of free zone corporations in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, as well as representatives of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, Agriculture and Trade, are attending the seminar.

Jordan and India to tackle trade relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Intensive talks on bilateral economic and trade relations and cooperation between Jordan and India will start in New Delhi on Tuesday at the under-secretaries level.

The three-day talks will be co-chaired by Mr. Mohammad Al Saqqaf, under-secretary at the fast mail delivery service reached 19, Mr. Ibn Tarif added. The countries are: U.S., Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Britain, France, West Germany, Taiwan, Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Cyprus and Austria.

The fast mail delivery service was launched last July. Operations of the in-coming and outgoing express mail services are handled by the Central Post Office in downtown Amman.

Youth minister inaugurates Irbid youth centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat Monday expressed the government's interest in youth issues and improving the conditions of centres benefiting them.

Inaugurating a youth activities centre in Deir Abi Said in Irbid Governorate, Dr. Dahiyat said the ministry is currently undertaking a field study for all residential concentrations with the aim of identifying the needs of youth and exploring the possibility of establishing clubs and youth centres in areas lacking such facilities.

there to import more Jordanian products and to raise their imports to 1.2 million tonnes of phosphates and 450,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers in sequence.

Jordan this year awarded an Indian company a \$110 million contract to build part of a 450 kilometre highway linking Jordan's south with Al Jafr, near the Iraqi border in Jordan's east.

The Kingdom's main imports from India are wheat, tea, spices and soya meal.

Mr. Saqqaf also said his talks there will focus on the feasibility of setting up a joint industrial project for fertilisers to be based either in Aqaba or in India with the products to be marketed in both countries.

Visit to Indonesia

Mr. Saqqaf's visit to the Far East will also take him to Indonesia for four days of official talks in Jakarta.

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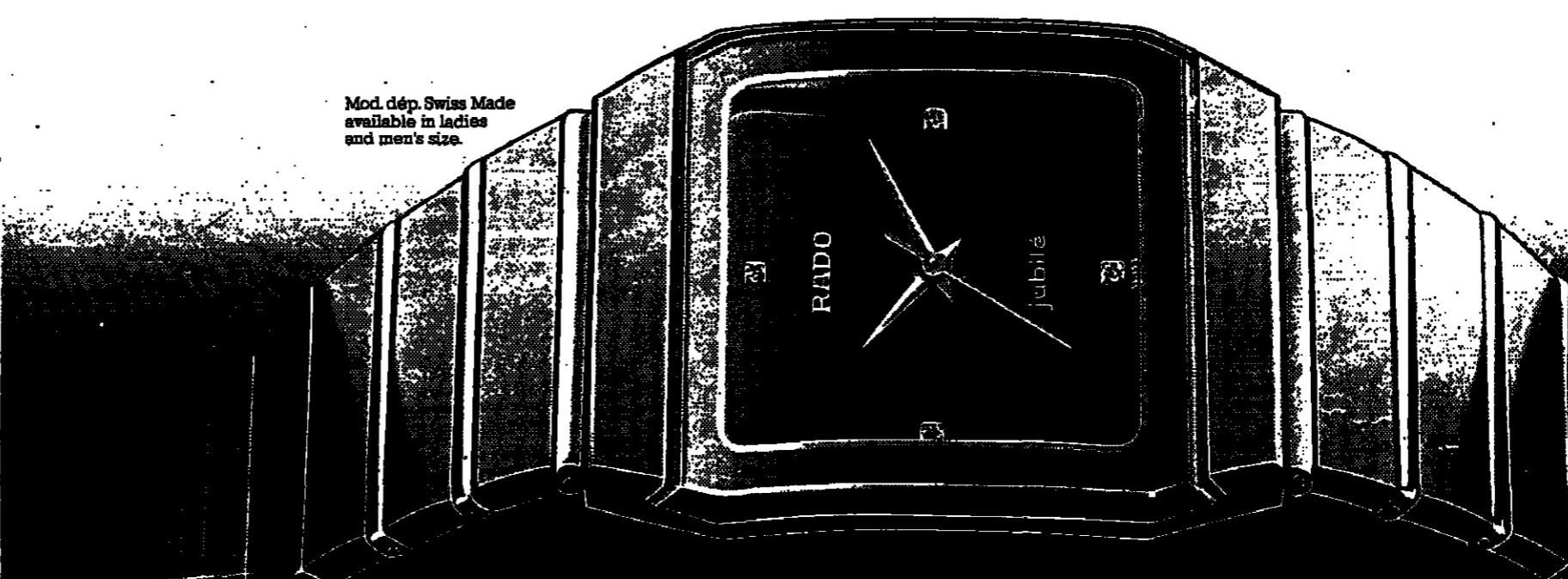
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Majali heads meeting of sub-committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali Monday presided over a meeting of the Occupied Territories Affairs Sub-Committee and discussed with the committee members development projects referred to the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs by the Charitable Society for Assisting Gazans. Earlier on Monday Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Duhun received the French ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Patrick Leclercq, and discussed with him the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Duhun also discussed prospects for France's contribution to some economic and social development projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cabinet approves loan from IDB

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a JD 2.5 million loan agreement from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The loan will be used to contribute to financing the Zarqa River Basin project.

Jordan seeks 'proper conference'

(Continued from page 1) reach an agreement or hold general elections."

On other issues in the region, Mr. Masri said Jordan supported the Feb. 22 deployment of Syrian troops to keep peace in west Beirut if it helped the war-torn Lebanon into security and stability. "We believe it is actually a good step especially if it will lead to restoring security and stability to all of Lebanon and to lifting the blockade of the Palestinian refugee camps" in Beirut and South Lebanon, Mr. Masri said.

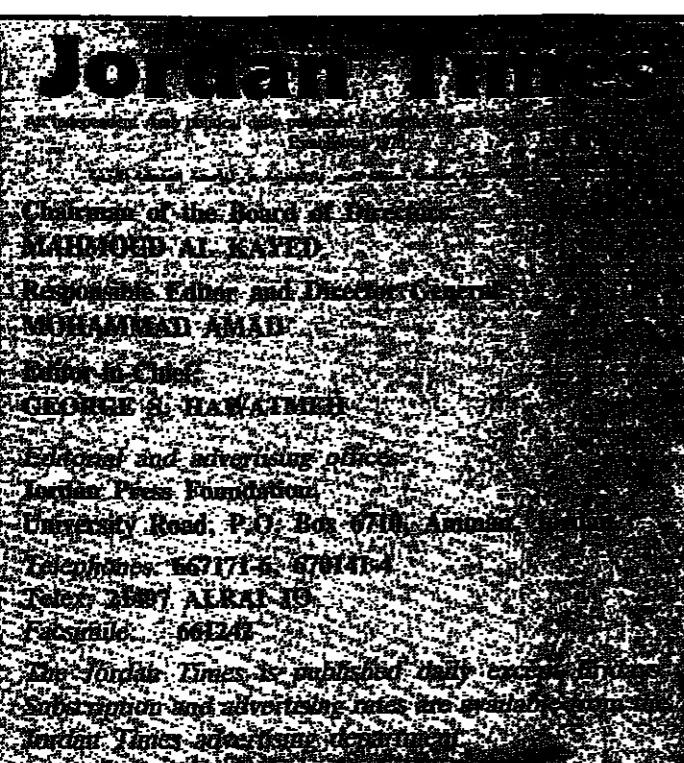
On Egyptian efforts "reconcile" Jordan and the PLO, Mr. Masri said the efforts did not produce any breakthrough but he added that the "Egyptians are now more sympathetic with our point of view."

On Jordan's efforts to bring about a more active Soviet involvement in efforts for Middle East peace, Mr. Masri said "we have confidence in the Soviet motives" to take an active interest in the region's issues and that "Moscow was 'now more flexible.' He did not elaborate.

Replying to a question on the split within the Israeli government over the international conference idea, Mr. Masri said "both sides (the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir) will have to sit down and

discuss between Amman and Damascus were continuing over the Lebanese political situation as well as efforts to convene the proposed international peace conference. He said both Jordan and Syria had been coordinating positions on several issues related to developments in the region and that he himself was in constant touch with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaf.

Mr. Masri described Jordan-Syrian relations as "very good" but said there was no development towards reconciliation between Syria and Iraq.



THE VIEW FROM SECOND CIRCLE

By Rami G. Khouri

What's my GNP trying to tell me?

THE good rains of the past winter have certainly been bountiful for those of us who keep an eye on the Jordanian economy, if we are to judge by the several meetings with the press during the past two weeks by the prime minister, the planning minister and the industry and trade minister. And, we hear, there is more to come — which is a fine time, give the importance of dialogue and public discussion to a rational process of problem-solving and nation-building.

While there are many interesting points that have been raised by these and other members of the government during this bonanza of communication, I have been more intrigued by the manner in which the communication process has taken place than by the substance of what has been said.

My personal view — during the boom years and now in our peculiar little recession — has always been that Jordan's economy is not subject to, and should not be judged by, the same classic rules of economic performance that other, more normal economies, live by. We are and always have been a highly abnormal economy, given that so much of the money that finances economic activity and growth in Jordan comes from outside the country.

The statistics will tell assorted tales, depending on how you choose and display them. The hard economic reality and fact of life behind the statistics is that Jordan's economic engine is driven by financial fuel that comes from outside our borders. Depending on how you interpret the statistics, the numbers will show that we rely on foreign sources of cash for anywhere between 40 and 70 per cent of our gross national product — including such foreign sources as remittances by Jordanians and Palestinians living abroad, Arab budget support, grants and soft loans from friendly foreign countries, multilateral technical assistance, and commercial loans.

The good news, though, is that Jordan has never lived in any other manner during its 66 years of history, and therefore none of the above really matters — because what is abnormal for other economies is absolutely normal and routine for us.

What I found interesting in the sudden flurry of senior officials' remarks on the economy was their apparent reluctance to admit the point I have just made, preferring rather to analyse the Jordanian economy in the same manner as one would analyse, say, the economy of West Germany or France. This is highly unfair to West Germany and France, for starters, given the much more turbulent

regional and historical context in which we have maintained growth and development patterns over the past half a century.

I would have thought it far more appropriate, in the present situation, for our senior officials to challenge the people of Jordan to do their part for economic recovery, rather than to comfort them with statistics and facts apparently designed to show that all is well in the realm.

The irony is that, yes indeed, things are more or less well in the realm. We have some vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated in recent years, such as a rising foreign and domestic debt, increased unemployment, and an inability to control international commodity prices. But which country in the world does not suffer from these and other problems?

The real question that I would like to have answered is: Why should the government always have to solve global, if not even cosmic, economic problems? Is it the responsibility of the prime minister to find jobs for all those tens of thousands of Jordanians who — in moments of unsuspecting structural inadaptation — decided to seek a university education, only to discover upon graduation that they were unemployable?

Is it the responsibility of the planning minister to explain why half a dozen sisterly Arab oil producers have found themselves unable to provide Jordan with all the aid they pledged to provide back in the late 1970s?

Ours is an economy with very little pure economics in it. Most of the ostensibly economic decisions that are made — whether by individuals, families, communities or the government — are based essentially on political criteria. These include, for example, one's assumed access to work, power and influence in the community, one's anticipation that most of the countries in the area today will be here next decade, one's recognition that personal contacts are perhaps as important a determinant of professional advancement as one's personal abilities or work performance.

I would think it more appropriate, in our current situation, for senior government officials to refuse to go along with the tendency to look to the government for all solutions, and instead to challenge the citizenry to act in a manner that supported the concept of a Jordanian community, rather than a Jordanian consumers' collective.

The fact remains that, in the end, we are a politicised nation,

living in a politicised region, requiring political solutions to our multiple challenges. The prime minister — talking about anticipated Arab aid in the future — was correct to note that our number one asset is our King, meaning that financial support for Jordan is essentially a political decision, rather than the result of sophisticated calculations of anticipated returns on investments or other such economic criteria.

The truly daring, creative and statesmanlike response to the present economic slump should be — in my view — a bold domestic political leap forward in the affairs of the realm. This should be an opportunity for people and government alike to be more humble and more realistic, in both our economic expectations and our abilities to effect economic change. This can only happen when we have adjusted our system and our psyches to the point where there is a clear convergence between the concept of individual gain and the concept of the wellbeing of the community and the nation as a whole.

The current state of affairs places a premium on individual gains — to satisfy personal, family, village or clan needs — while the good of the country as a whole is left for unnamed others to concern themselves with. The economic recession is an opportunity to redress this imbalance, and to establish new mechanisms of dialogue, political participation and public accountability which would help ensure that the structural problems we suffer from today might be less severe the next time the recession comes around — as it surely will.

I find it rather embarrassing that we — the citizenry — should now push the government up against the wall and demand why it has made so many alleged mistakes, and to ask what is it doing to make things better. If there are economic problems of a structural, or other nature, they cannot all be blamed on the government, for during the past decade the mass of Jordanian people has not exactly stood by idly.

The problem we still must resolve is how to formulate decision-making systems that apportion responsibility and accountability in a just manner among the public and private sectors, so that we end up with a measure of public policy awareness and consistency that would help prevent some of the problems we complain about today. This is a political challenge, not an economic one, and it must be dealt with in political terms.

Who is duping whom?

AMID renewed debates over who duped whom in the American-Iran arms sales episode, several vital by-products of the supply of U.S. arms to Iran appear to have been overlooked and relegated to secondary importance by the international community. But we Arabs cannot afford to do so since it is our own security and stability at stake in the persisting Iran-Iraq war.

First of all, there appears to be more than meets the eye in the reported deployment of "non-American" missiles by Iran along the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. While Washington has reportedly warned Iraq not to threaten Gulf shipping with the missiles, Tehran has issued a counter-warning to the U.S. against "interference" in the Gulf.

With the elaborate media build-up of the war of words, it would appear that Washington is really serious in fulfilling its pledge to ensure the free flow of oil from the Gulf. We sure hope so, but, judging from past encounters with American duplicity, there is nothing stopping us from seeing the whole missile deployment and warnings as part of a well-enacted scenario between Washington and Tehran. Supporting such an argument is the pledge by Tehran to publish its own report of the American arms sales, since all indications are that there could be more skeletons in the U.S. cupboard and more heads could roll in Washington if all facts behind the U.S.-Iran deal were to be brought into the open.

The second factor that we cannot overlook is the report that the Soviet Union has set up two "listening posts" in Iran. While we cannot expect Moscow to authenticate it, the report itself could not be seen separate from the ongoing U.S.-Iran exchange over the missile deal.

Iran, desperate for weapons to boost its war effort, is seeking all avenues to acquire arms, and Tehran appears to be sending a message to Washington: The price to avoid further embarrassments and crises for the Reagan administration is more covert or open supply of American arms to Iran. The message is further strengthened by the reported setting up of Soviet listening posts in Iran since it could also mean further cooperation between Moscow and Tehran at American expense.

No matter which way the cookie crumbles, one thing is clear: The Reagan administration is caught within its own trap and the only way out for Washington is to own up everything and assume a realistic stand and throw its full weight behind efforts to bring Tehran to the negotiating table for a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq conflict. It would also restore part of the lost American credibility in the Arab World and assure the world at large of U.S. sincerity to bring about world peace and security. But, the crucial question is: Are the Americans ready for such a realistic move?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peaceful cooperation

KING Hussein's meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo Sunday came amid an overwhelming world-wide support for the need of convening an international conference to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a just settlement for the Palestine problem. The talks between the two leaders reflect the depth of the unique relationship between Egypt and Jordan and the continued coordination between the two leaderships for the sake of serving pan-Arab causes. Both the King and the president told journalists at the end of their meeting that the international conference is the only forum for ending the conflict in the region and that all concerned parties should attend the conference including the PLO which is the representative of the Palestinian people. This joint stand has been supported by European, Asian and African countries which all want a solution to be reached under the United Nations umbrella and want the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Both Egypt and Jordan hold identical views to the Gulf war, and have therefore called for an end to the conflict as the start of peace negotiations. There is no doubt that both leaders will continue their efforts for arriving at the most feasible solutions for the problems of the region.

Al Dustour: Cairo, Amman in agreement

IN summing up his talks with President Mubarak of Egypt Sunday King Hussein made it clear that Jordan adheres strongly to its national stands with regard to the proposed international Middle East conference and the Gulf conflict. The King told reporters that Cairo and Amman are in agreement on the need for holding an international conference to solve the Middle East question, and both are convinced of the need for the start of peaceful negotiations between Iran and Iraq to end the conflict in the Gulf region. Since the restoration of diplomatic ties between Amman and Cairo the leaderships of both Egypt and Jordan have been coordinating their stands with regard to the problems and developments in the Middle East and this has no doubt contributed to a strengthening of Arab stands and positions in the unification of Arab World. We look on the King's visit to Cairo and his talks with Egyptian leaders as yet another step in this direction, and another stage in strengthening the Arab stand. We attach great hopes to the joint efforts of the two leaders who are bent on working relentlessly for serving the Arab cause in general and solving the Palestine issue and the Gulf question in particular.

Sawt Al Shaab: Talks for peace

KING Hussein told reporters in Cairo that joint Arab efforts should now concentrate on means for ending the Gulf conflict so as to stop the sapping of Arab and Islamic countries' resources. The King said that it is hoped that the Iraqi and Iranian leaderships will now come to the negotiating table and open talks for a lasting peace. King Hussein said that Egypt can play a leading role in mobilising Arab countries' efforts to end the conflict in the Gulf and also to help find a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. For this reason, coordinating efforts and plans with Cairo is a necessity and joining Arab forces for the common good is essential if the Arabs want to achieve success in their endeavours. The King said that Jordan and Egypt are in agreement on the need for holding an international Middle East conference and the inclusion of the PLO and all concerned parties in the negotiations for a settlement. This conference he said is necessary for implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This is the view of Jordan as well as Egypt. Both countries are serious in their efforts for uniting Arab ranks and for resolving the problems of the Middle East region.

Reagan's slide may have ended, but problems remain

By Michael Gelb
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan appears to have stopped the plunge in his political rating triggered by the Iran arms scandal, at least temporarily, according to Washington political observers.

But many political analysts still maintain that Reagan will have only limited impact on domestic policy in his remaining two years in office as Washington increasingly turns its attention to the battle to succeed him in Congress even without the

television interview. "If we come up with new evidence, then we'll have to face that when we get it."

With the House of Representatives and Senate both controlled by the Democrats for the first time in his presidency following their success in November's mid-term elections, political analysts say Reagan's legislative agenda would have faced a battle in Congress even without the

Reuters

"By that time, you've already won all the easy legislative battles."

The normal ebbing of power has been greatly accelerated for Reagan by a steep drop in his public support since his decision to sell arms to Iran became public in November.

About 65 per cent of people polled before the Iran arms scan-



Rebel gains raise new doubts about Philippine army

By Philip Melchior
Reuters

MANILA — A week in which the Philippine armed forces conceded 37 deaths to Communist rebels in just two incidents has raised fresh doubts about its ability to take decisive action in the country's long-running guerrilla war.

"If the president's statements hold up, I think the worse is certainly behind him," Democratic senator Sam Nunn said in a

time as comments in Washington by a senior Pentagon official which have angered both President Corazon Aquino and the armed forces.

Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary for defence and international security affairs, told an influential congressional subcommittee that Aquino's administration simply had no real policy to deal with a war which has lasted on and off for 18 years.

Armitage cautioned against expecting significant government gains against the rebels in the near future.

Counter-insurgency strategies are developed and then discarded. Military advice is often ignored. Distrust and apathy pervade civil-military relations," he said.

Aquino had done no better than her deposed predecessor Ferdinand Marcos in planning against the rebels and had "regrettably failed to develop a comprehensive counter-insurgency plan that integrates military, political, economic and social programmes."

Where Marcos relied solely on the military, members of Aquino's administration believe that they can rely almost exclusively on symbolic political acts to cure the insurgency," Armitage declared.

They were both reported to have involved large numbers of NPA regulars who were prepared to confront the army head-on, yet were able to escape with apparently low casualties.

Coincidentally, the two outbreaks came almost at the same

upwards of a decade before the military is fully professional.

Even Defence Secretary Rafael Eto — himself a former ranking officer — has complained bitterly about the quality of the army he inherited from Marcos, saying it was incapable of mounting sustained operations.

Referring to "let us fight" pleas by sections of the army during a recent ceasefire with the Communists, Eto said: "Their spirit is willing ... whether their skill or their equipment or support is up to it only time will tell."

Military statistics say about 365 people have died in insurgency-related incidents since the 60-day ceasefire ended on February 8 with the failure of peace talks between the two sides.

The army put the death toll at 81 civilians, about 115 military (including police) and around 170 NPA regulars.

The war rarely comes directly to the cities.

The rebels, conscious of their public image, go in for interviews rather than the terror tactics of random bombings. The work of their "sparrow squads" — assassination units — is directed at individual targets and even then is often overstated.

After a rash of police killings in and around the capital, police headquarters last week drew back from their previous automatic response of blaming the NPA.

Of about 12 killings, only four were definitely linked to the sparrows — the others were common or garden murders, police chief Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre said.

Analysts with close links to the armed forces say that although progress is being made it will take

Poll campaign starts in Indonesia, ruling party sure of win

By Jeremy Cliff
Reuters

JAKARTA — Indonesia's election campaign is officially launched this week, but the victory of President Suharto's ruling Golkar Party is assured and little criticism of the military-backed government is likely.

Campaigning by Indonesia's three officially-sanctioned parties for 400 seats in the 500-seat state assembly begins on Tuesday, although cabinet ministers and senior Golkar officials have been busy drumming up support for

The other 100 seats are reserved for military appointees.

The election in Southeast Asia's largest nation is on April 23. Golkar has predicted it will win at least 70 per cent of the vote against 64 per cent in the last nationwide ballot in 1982.

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Of about 12 killings, only four were definitely linked to the sparrows — the others were common or garden murders, police chief Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre said.

Few expect the two opposition parties to question the government's record on, say, handling the economy, corruption or employment, although the economy

is in its worst shape for several years after the slump in world oil prices and unemployment is rising.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and a leading producer of commodities like rubber, tin, palm oil and coffee, has been forced to restrict government spending severely after the crash in oil prices last year.

Astrid Susanto, a leading social scientist at the University of Indonesia, said in an interview published in the Jakarta newspaper *Surya Pembaruan* that there were a number of issues that the three parties could debate in the coming campaign.

"But I doubt they will dare to speak on issues concerning unemployment, increased income, and cheap housing in their election campaigns," he stated.

The reluctance to tackle the government directly on its record stems from Suharto's attempt to wipe out sectarian politics and create a form of consensus democracy in the world's largest Muslim nation.

Traditional deference to authority remains the rule in Indonesia, where a short-lived experiment with parliamentary democracy on the Westminster model in the 1950s gave liberalism a bad name because governments would resign every few months as a result of shifting political alliances.

Under Suharto's military-backed rule the giant archipelago of 13,000 islands has been stable for two decades, achieving self-sufficiency in its staple food, rice, and concentrating on economic development during the oil boom years of the 1970s.

Suharto has outlawed campaigning on religious or sectarian issues, and the predominantly Muslim United Development Party (PPP) has been forced to change its symbol to a star from the powerful symbol of the Kabah in Mecca, Islam's holiest city.

In a country that is 87 per cent Muslim, the PPP is the most credible opposition to the government, which has been worried by a revival of fundamentalism in parts of Java, Indonesia's most populous island.

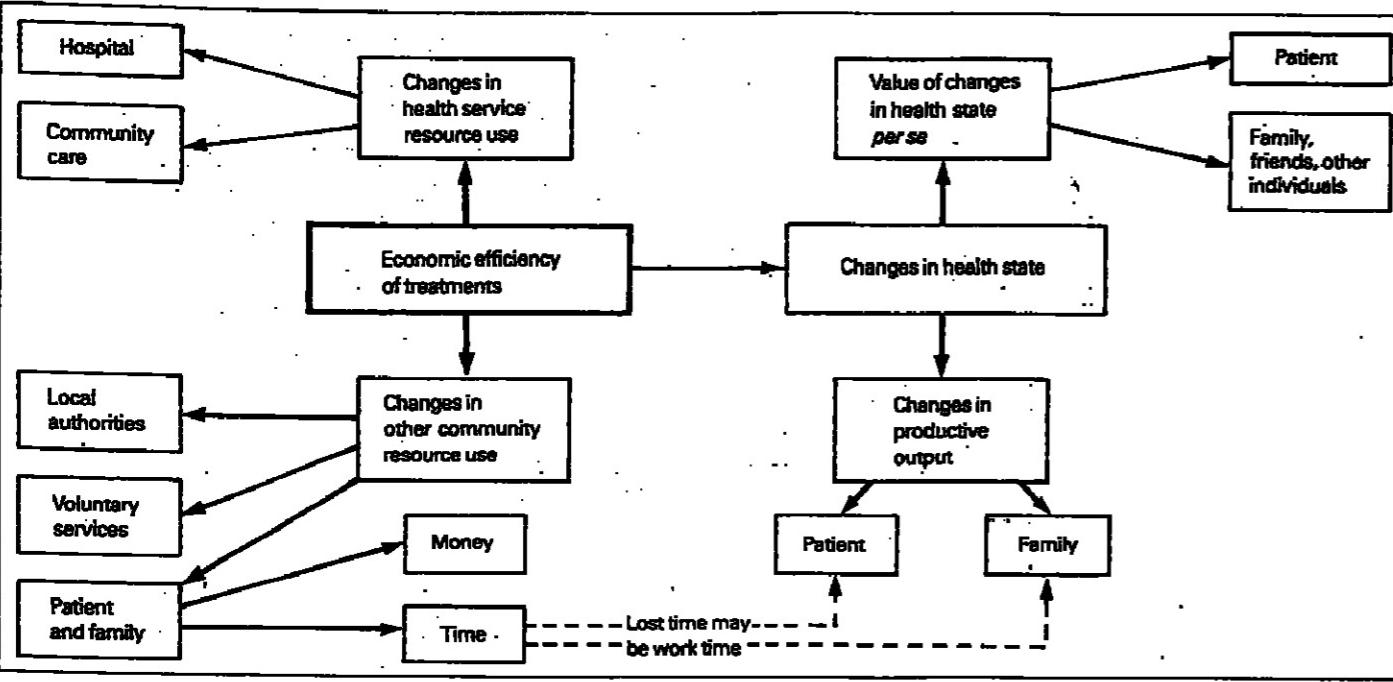
Legislation passed two years ago binding all political and social organisations in the country to the state ideology known as *Pancasila* effectively outlaws the creation of an Islamic state.

Golkar has formed an alliance with the third party, the small and weak Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), against the PPP in some parts of the country.

The 280,000-strong armed forces will be on alert across the country.

The government officially states it expects no trouble during the ballot. But the commander of Central Java has said he fears some extremist groups may try to sabotage polling stations, markets or electricity generating facilities.

In the last elections around 60 people died in accidents and political violence, including a riot in Jakarta in which five people were shot dead.



Economics in health care: what equation?

By Professor Michael Drummond

All countries are finding that their resources for health care are becoming more and more stretched. Rapid technological advance is coupled with growing public awareness and expectations of what can be provided, while the range of possible treatment expands. Someone has to assess priorities, but how? Recent research may at least point to the path we should follow.

EVERY nation, no matter how far it has developed industrially, needs to make tough choices on how to use those of its resources that are scarce. Competition for resources is not only between different sectors of the economy, but within each sector, too. Should more resources be devoted to education than to health care? Within the health care sector, ought we to devote more resources to primary health care than to providing hospitals with the latest medical equipment? Within the treatment options for a certain clinical condition, duodenal ulcer for example, are we to give patients surgery or therapy based on one of the new drugs?

Nobody would pretend that such choices are easy to make. No matter what the country, decisions about allocating resources in the health care field must take account of a complex interplay of social, cultural, economic and political factors. In the past, evidence about the effectiveness of health care treatments or programmes, generated through medical research, has always been an overriding consideration. But the growing burden of health care costs has compelled researchers in Britain and elsewhere to develop ways of assessing the costs and benefits, or cost-effectiveness, of health care.

Concern about cost is more than merely financial: it stems from the notion that the more an authority devotes scarce resources to a given activity, the more the benefits from using those same resources in other worthwhile activities are foregone. Economists define the opportunity cost of using a resource as the benefit that could have been generated in its best alternative use. This idea is force-

of the patient. Economic evaluation is a complement of medical research, not a substitute for it.

Finally, the diagram makes it clear that the value of improved health is not confined to the changes in productive output through people living longer or in their health itself being better; it has a value in its own right. So consideration of the economics of health care is certainly not a recipe for dismantling against the elderly, handicapped or other groups that may not be in employment. This point was emphasised in an article published in the *British Medical Journal* by Professor Alan Williams of the University of York. He argued that the cost of health care interventions should be compared with the years of life gained, adjusted by factors to reflect the quality of that life. The particular measure he used was the quality-adjusted life year (QALY), which he calculated for various health care programmes using judgments from physicians and measurements of the relative value of health states obtained by Dr. Rachel Rosser of the Middlesex Hospital, London. This work is still largely experimental but is an important development in the economic evaluation of health care programmes. Similar research is being carried out in the USA and Canada.

Evaluation techniques

For the reasons outlined, economists have been developing ways of assessing the costs and benefits of health care programmes. The range of factors that they seek to take into account is shown by the diagram. In examining economic efficiency it is important to examine the changes in resource use brought about by treatments, not only in the hospital sector but in community care, too. It is also relevant to consider the resources contributed by other public agencies and the family. This is particularly important for the evaluation of the early discharge of patients from hospital after surgery and of community care schemes for the elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Furthermore, it can be seen that evaluation of efficiency requires consideration of the changes that treatments or programmes bring about in the health

Former prostitutes find a way for legal income

By Lorraine Bartlett
The Associated Press

MARONDERA, Zimbabwe — Arrested four years ago in a nationwide crackdown on prostitution, 24 women spent a night in jail swapping stories of stingy clients and hassles on the streets. They decided right then to switch careers.

Aided by the wife of Zimbabwe's prime minister, whose government has emphasised women's rights, the former prostitutes now run a food and sewing cooperative that brings them both money and respect.

Mary Sandukwa heads their Zano Rinopa Sadza Cooperation, which means "an idea that gives food" in the Shona language.

In addition to operating a tavern food booth, women in the cooperative sew school uniforms, grow vegetables and raise poultry. They pool their profits at the end of each month.

Mrs. Sandukwa said the women still struggle for money, but they now are proud of their work.

"We are very happy," the 32-year-old woman said. "We care for ourselves and men now respect us more."

Mrs. Sandukwa said prostitution is a tough way to make a living in Marondera.

"Men paid us what they could afford," she said. "We asked for 5 dollars (U.S.\$3), but we often ended up taking anything because we had nothing."

The stove the women in the cooperative use to prepare meat and corn porridge was a gift from Sally Mugabe, wife of Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. She was impressed by their determination to quit prostitution.

She also bought them a refrigerator and four sewing machines, and found housing in a

row of neat brick homes. Mrs. Mugabe's interest reflects policies of her husband's government, which came to power after a 7-year guerrilla war and elections in 1980 that transformed the white-ruled British Colony of Rhodesia into Black-ruled Zimbabwe.

Women's rights in Zimbabwe have increased since Mugabe took office.

The prime minister created a ministry of women's affairs headed by a former guerrilla fighter still known by her nom de guerre, Teurai Rops (spill blood) Nhongo.

Mrs. Nhongo, 32, is an outspoken member of the male-dominated cabinet.

"Women were as much a part of the liberation struggle as men," she said. "Now that the war is over, they must not become the forgotten soldiers."

Two major sex equality laws have been approved since independence.

The Legal Age of Majority Act gave women adult status at 18—the same as men. Previous laws regarded women as minors under guardianship of husbands or fathers.

Last year, the government passed the Matrimonial Causes Act, giving women rights to property after divorce or a husband's death. Traditionally, women left the matrimonial home only with clothes and pots, and often without their children.

A tradition under which a father demands cash or cattle for his daughter's hand in marriage remains.

Fifty years ago, a cow and two goats was a respectable price under the "tora" system. Now, a groom may pay up to 5,000 Zimbabwe dollars (U.S.\$3,000) to marry a woman with a university education.



The Arabs: Journeys Beyond the Mirage

By David Lamb
Random House

A peek behind the Arab World's veil

AFTER completing a four-year assignment in Kenya in 1982, *Los Angeles Times* foreign correspondent David Lamb wrote a superb book, *The Africans*, that reported on a turbulent and complex region little known to most Americans. The book fused Lamb's reporting experiences in sub-Saharan Africa with a capsule history of the continent.

Lamb has employed the same journalistic technique in *The Arabs: Journeys Beyond the Mirage*, based on his subsequent assignment in Egypt, from which he covered the Middle East for 3½ years. Interweaving anecdotes, personality profiles, and personal observations with heavy doses of historical and religious research, he analyses the complexities of an area even more politically turbulent than Africa.

He succeeds well in capturing the images, sounds, and moods of the Arab World. His book is colourfully written and highly informative, and it shows why the Middle East has been in such ferment in recent decades. It also explains how the conflicting pressures of modernity and tradition are doing so much to revive religious fervor in Arab countries. But Lamb is less successful in achieving his aim to "strip away some of the stereotypes that have led to so many misconceptions about [the Arab World's] people, its religion, its stumming development makes it easier to buy advanced medical technologies, there is a need to consider undertaking more economic evaluations to ensure that new technology and techniques are used efficiently.

While technology in health care continues to advance, the capability to evaluate new techniques from an economic viewpoint should develop hand in hand with it. The methods of economic evaluation I have outlined will probably be continually refined; special priority should be given to developing the assessment of improvements in the quality of life brought about by health technologies.

A related priority is for governments to ensure that suitable evaluations are carried out. In Britain, for example, the U.K. Department of Health and Social Security took the initiative to commission an economic evaluation of the heart transplant programme. It was undertaken by a team led by Martin Buxton of Brunel University, near London, to provide data for decisions about further expansion of the programme. The report was published in 1985 by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

In industrial countries, the main emphasis has been on evaluating the costs and benefits of expensive medical technology such as computer tomography (CT) scanners and neonatal intensive care for infants with abnormally low weight at birth. A common finding is that while new medical technologies have undoubtedly benefits, they are often used in clinical work where the costs are high in relation to the benefits obtained. And, in the context of a growing emphasis on community care and prevention of illness, there have been evaluations of home care for the elderly and screening for various diseases such as cancer, hypertension, spina bifida and Down's Syndrome. The Centre for Health Economics at the University of York and the Health Economics Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen are research groups that are notably active in that field.

There have been evaluations of key primary health care projects in various countries such as that in Narangwal, India; an expanded programme on immunisation developed by the World Health Organisation, and the control of locally endemic diseases such as schistosomiasis.

Acute scarcity of resources for health care are used as efficiently as possible and to assist those working in the health care field to put forward a good case for more funds. Also, as economic development makes it easier to buy advanced medical technologies, there is a need to consider undertaking more economic evaluations to ensure that new technology and techniques are used efficiently.

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not otherwise find congenial.

Lamb is horrified by the poverty in Egypt, the most populous of the Arab countries, and he deplores the country's "sense of fatalism [that] takes all responsibility out of human hands and puts everything — from the outcome of wars to the keeping of appointments — under the control of a Greater Power."

To counter the adverse stereotyping, Lamb tries to humanise the Arabs. He brings us into the personal lives of Arabs with diverse backgrounds — a garbage collector in Cairo, a beggar in Khartoum, women and children suffering the ravages of war in war-torn Lebanon, where the Syrians, Christian Maronites, Druses, Shi'ites, and rival Palestinian factions continue to shift their allegiances from one camp to another.

Lamb identifies Elie Hobeika, for example, as the Maronite militia leader responsible for slaughtering hundreds of Palestinian Muslims in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps seven years ago — an atrocity that enraged Muslim Syria. But Hobeika is now in disfavour with the Maronite leadership and has found refuge in — of all places — Syria.

Israel has supplanted religion and language as a unifying force for the Arabs. "It gives them a convenient peg on which to hang blame for everything that goes wrong," Lamb writes. Lamb himself, however, considers Israel a major cause of Mideast unrest.

He argues that the U.S. supports Israel because the Israelis encourage terrorism, and he berates the Israelis for opposing a homeland for the

Palestinians and for "believing that their right to security and self-respect is greater than [the Arabs']. But when he acknowledges that "even if Israel was removed from the Middle East equation, peace would not suddenly descend on the fractured world of the Arabs."

In analysing what he regards as the West's anti-Arab bias, Lamb offers a provocative theory: that the West has been so accustomed to manipulating and exploiting the Arab countries that "simply could not comprehend a reversal of roles" when the Arabs began to wield political muscle during and after the 1973 oil embargo. But he fails to see that this same role-reversal theory can also be applied to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Just as Western countries, according to Lamb, cannot fathom the new power of the Arabs, the Arabs appear unable to handle the reality of a Jewish state whose people have humbled the Arabs on the battlefield. This stands in the way of a peaceful solution to the prolonged belligerence between the Arabs and the Jews.

The Arabs is not as penetrating as Lamb's earlier work on Africa. Despite its shortcomings, however, it is a useful primer on a people who boast an illustrious heritage, who for centuries were confined to a colonial backwater, and who are now vigorously reasserting themselves on the world stage — Business Week.

Morton A. Reichek

Tunisia warns against narghile smoking hazards

By Charles Dick
Reuter

SIDI BOU SAID, Tunisia — Tunisian authorities are cracking down on smoking of the hookah, an ornate oriental pipe, saying it is a health hazard.

They say there has been an alarming increase in smoking of the hookah, a familiar and picturesque sight for tourists in Tunisian street cafes.

Known locally as the *chicha*, the hookah has many names — including the *narghile* and "hubbie bubble."

This last comes from the noise the pipe makes as the tobacco smoke is drawn through a snake-like nozzle and bubbles through water in the pipe's bowl-shaped base.

Most cafe owners have an array of pipes for their clientele, who sit and sip sweet mint tea bobbing with sunflower seeds and draw reflectively on their "chicha."

Authorities say, however, that the user is exposed not only to the dangers of smoking tobacco, but also to the spread of disease.

The official TAP news agency,

now stretching its capacity to 12,000 because of expected new arrivals.

"If we stretch our limit beyond 12,000 we will displace Zimbabweans to accommodate displaced Mozambicans," according to camp administrator Goodson Sithole.

He said a new refugee camp would be opened at Chiredi in southeastern Zimbabwe to take in additional refugees.

Some refugees walk hundreds of kilometres from the war zones to the camp. Some never make it but die from hunger and disease, officials said.

They told a story of a mother and her six children who walked about 100 kilometres from Mozambique's central Tete province, hoping to get to Zimbabwe. All but the mother died during the journey.

There was also a mentally retarded and orphaned boy who,

in a strong attack on *chicha* smoking in cafes, said recently that thousands of people might use the same pipe in a single

Evert Lloyd shows old form in beating Shriver in Dallas

DALLAS (R) — Top seed Chris Evert Lloyd kept her perfect record against fellow American Pam Shriver alive when she cruised past the second seed 6-1, 6-3 to win the \$250,000 Dallas Classic women's tennis tournament.

For Lloyd, who has never lost to Shriver in 18 meetings, it was her 149th title and she received \$50,000.

Lloyd, who lost just two sets in the tournament, appears to have regained her championship form for the first time since coming back from a knee injury in February.

"It was a little bit special. I needed to get a tournament under my belt. I was getting tired of hearing that I hadn't won a tournament since the French Open (last May). After the first round, I think I played some of the best tennis in my career," said

Lloyd. Even Shriver, who collected \$22,500 as runner-up, was pleased with Lloyd's return to form.

"It's good to see Chris playing well again, because we missed her," Shriver said. "It's good to have her back. Women's tennis needs her for a few more years."

Lloyd, normally a slow starter, won 14 of the first 16 points Sunday as Shriver won only five points on her serve. Usually her main weapon, the second seed was unable to hold her own serve in the first set.

Soviet coach sees East-West gap

By Andrew Warshaw
The Associated Press

CAMBERLEY, England (AP) — Valentin Shevchuk has coached some of the Soviet Union's best gymnasts, and he knows that all the training in the world won't turn a clumsy cat into an Olga Korbut.

"A gymnastic genius is born, not created," Shevchuk said.

After helping to divulge their techniques to hundreds of British youngsters recently, however, Shevchuk and Soviet colleagues Alexander Fedorov and Valentin Monzolevskaya say an enormous gap remains between general standards in the East and West.

Building a team to back up a genius, Shevchuk said, requires high-clibre coaches, and government funding is needed to hire them.

"The problem in Britain, and much of the rest of the West, is that there is no state support for gymnastics," Shevchuk said through an interpreter during a coaching session at Camberley. "Because of that, there are no qualified coaches, no colleges or specialist establishments.

"The only people who can be trained are general physical education teachers. Like their students, they are very enthusiastic but that is not enough to produce world-beaters.

"In the Soviet Union, we have a slogan: It's the staff who decide

everything. That means if they aren't qualified enough, the gymnasts suffer."

Shevchuk, coaching director at the Krasnodar Gymnastics Training Centre in Siberia, has been involved with several leading Soviet gymnasts including Eleonora Naishishina, a member of her country's gold medal team at the 1980 Olympic Games.

Fedorov works at the Vladimir School of Gymnastics and coaches two-time men's world champion Yuri Korolyov. Monzolevskaya works extensively with both the men's and women's national squads.

British officials hope the Soviet visit will help improve that record.

"They have brought new approaches, with a patience and an attention to detail that most kids here have never seen before," Atkinson said. "And we have been able to reap the maximum benefit from their expertise."

Mondzolevskaya, whose dance techniques have become an integral part of Soviet gymnastics training, said she had no qualms about passing on her knowledge to Westerners.

"In Russia we have no secrets," she said through an interpreter. "The Japanese took all our methods in the early 1950s and became world champions, so why should we be worried about helping other gymnasts?"

Mondzolevskaya defended her country's system of intensive coaching, saying the West's perception of young girls in the Soviet Union being stretched to the limit of physical capability was exaggerated.

"We have spent more than 10 years trying to get coaches like these over here," said John Atkinson, technical director of the British Amateur Gymnastics Association. "They are among the best in the world and we think it is a major breakthrough. Their help has been enormous."

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European league roundup

Maradona refuses to panic over loss

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona is refusing to panic after Napoli's second league defeat of the season trimmed its lead at the top to three points.

At the beginning of this month Napoli was apparently canting towards its first title, but a couple of stumbles since have given renewed hope to the posse of clubs tracking Maradona and his men.

Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Internazionale, following a 0-0 draw with Roma last week, has awakened doubts about Napoli's durability but captain Maradona refuses to accept that his team is beginning to look fragile.

"The championship race has not re-opened. In a championship you can also lose some games, it's not a big tragedy and it doesn't change everything," Maradona said.

Roma, leader of the pursuing pack, agrees Napoli still has a huge advantage. "Napoli can permit itself the luxury of losing

another game. We, of course, will continue to play to win," said Roma's Swedish manager Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Napoli could well live to rue the point it threw away at third-placed Internazionale with just six minutes left, as Giuseppe Bergomi found space in the area to steal victory with a well-taken goal.

The leader plays its third successive tough game next week when it faces fourth-placed Juventus, who seemed to be returning to something like its best form in its 1-0 win over Como.

Real Madrid increased its lead at the top of the Spanish league to two points when it beat Real Valladolid 2-1 thanks to a second-half penalty from unsettled striker Hugo Sanchez.

But most of the day's action was centred in San Sebastian where Real Sociedad fans reacted violently at the end of a 1-1 draw with Barcelona when a home

"goal" was disallowed.

The referee had to be protected by police riot shields as he left the pitch and the police then charged fans who were storming the dressing rooms.

On the field, Scottish striker Steve Archibald, recalled to the Barcelona side last week after months on the sidelines, set up Ramon Caldere's goal with a fine pass but otherwise did little to suggest he is the man to solve his side's goal-scoring problems.

Real Madrid's opponent in the European Cup semifinals, Bayern Munich, cruised to a 4-0 victory over local rival Nuremberg to stay one point clear in the West German League.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, UEFA Cup semifinalists, scored seven goals in Bremen against Dynamo Kiev — European Cup semifinalists — who trounced Ararat Yerevan 7-0 in the Soviet First Division.

WBA strips Hagler of world middleweight title

CARACAS (R) — The World Boxing Association (WBA) voted to strip Marvellous Marvin Hagler of his middleweight title, despite an appeal from the champion's lawyer to postpone the decision, WBA officials said.

WBA executives and fight promoters gathered in the city of Maracay, 67 miles west of the Venezuelan capital, for the opening of the organisation's new headquarters.

During the meeting, the WBA executive committee upheld a recommendation made by the championship committee last month to strip Hagler of his title because he failed to make a mandatory defence against top-ranked contend Herol Graham of Britain.

WBA President Gilberto Mendoza of Venezuela said the

American middleweight champion had bypassed the organisation's top 10 contenders for his much-publicised bout with Sugar Ray Leonard, scheduled to take place in Las Vegas on April 6.

Hagler's attorney, Morris Goldings, appealed to the executive committee to postpone the decision, WBA officials said.

Goldings said he would seek an injunction in U.S. district court in Boston next Wednesday that would prevent the WBA from filing the middleweight title.

The Leonard-Hagler fight has been sanctioned by the World Boxing Council as a championship bout.

American NBA roundup

Portland edges Chicago

PORLAND (AP) — The Bulls trailed Portland by two points in the final seconds Sunday night when Trail Blazers guard Terry Porter knocked the ball away from Michael Jordan, forcing Elston Turner to take the potential shooting shot.

Turner missed, giving Portland the 115-113 National Basketball Association victory.

Turner averages 3.4 points per game compared to 36.8 for Jordan.

Kiki Vandeweghe had 28 points, Steve Johnson 24 and Clyde Drexler 23 for Portland, offsetting Jordan's 46 points and 26 rebounds by Charles Oakley.

In other NBA games, Boston defeated New Jersey 116-104; San Antonio edged the Los Angeles Clippers 116-112 in overtime; the Los Angeles Lakers beat Sacramento 129-121.

In Los Angeles, the Lakers won its 10th straight game, one short of the NBA high this season, as Magic Johnson had 33 points, 19 assists and 12 rebounds.

The win gave Los Angeles a

19-2 record since the all-star break and was its 21st straight regular-season victory over Sacramento.

James Worthy and Byron Scott added 24 and 18 points, respectively, for Los Angeles. Reggie Theus led the Kings with 33 points, and Joe Kleine had 22.

Johnny Dawkins scored 12 points to lead a San Antonio rally from a 17-point deficit in the final 6½ minutes of regulation, then Jon Sundvold beat the L.A. Clippers with a 3-pointer with 31 seconds left in overtime.

Johnny Moore scored a season-high 25 points off the bench and Aris Gilmore had 22 points and 16 rebounds for the Spurs, while Mike Woodson had 20 points for L.A., who has lost five straight games and 11 of its last 12.

In Boston, the Celtics got 40 points from Larry Bird and fought off a late New Jersey rally to win its 22nd straight game at home.

Kevin McHale added 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics.

New Jersey was led by Buck Williams with 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Briton Clark wins Moroccan golf title

Nevada downs Iowa to advance to NCAA final 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Freddie Banks and Gerald Paddio came alive from 3-point range, and top-ranked Nevada-Las Vegas rallied behind a 27-4 run in the second half to beat sixth-ranked Iowa 84-81 Sunday and advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association final four.

Banks hit three 3-pointers in the second half, while Paddio had all four of his after halftime as Nevada-Las Vegas rallied from a 19-point first-half disadvantage. UNLV has won 22 in a row to go 37-1, tying the mark for most victories in a season set last year.

Iowa had a chance to tie the score, but Kevin Gamble, who threw a pass away with 14 seconds left, missed a 23-footer as time ran out.

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Cinema
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KARMEN'
Cinema
Tel: 677420
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RAGHADAN
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HELL CAMP
Cinema
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Economy

Indonesia fails to boost non-oil exports

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's exports outside the oil and gas sector are failing to prosper enough to make up for the fall in revenues caused by the slump in world crude-oil prices, central bank statistics showed Monday.

Bank Indonesia's weekly statistical report shows that exports from the non-oil sector fell in 1986 to \$5.787 billion from \$5.983 billion in 1985.

This is mostly because the value of important commodity exports like timber, rubber, palm oil and tea fell as a result of lower international prices.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is relying on increasing its non-oil exports to make up for lost oil revenues after last year's collapse in world prices.

It devalued the rupiah by 31 per cent against the dollar in September to boost commodity exports.

Western bankers said the impact of the devaluation would probably not have had a significant effect on 1986 exports. The government expects exports in the non-oil sector to pick up in the present calendar year.

Exports of coffee showed a big jump in value to \$753 million from \$580 million in 1985, reflecting a jump in prices after a

drought in Brazil.

Rubber was down at \$625 million against \$720 million in 1985. Tin exports were valued at \$180.6 million in 1986 compared with \$246 million the previous year, the bank said.

World Bank chief highlights difficulties

Meanwhile, World Bank President Barber Conable met 14 Indonesian cabinet ministers Monday to review the country's borrowing needs and the impact of the slump in oil prices on South East Asia's largest nation.

Mr. Conable, who sees President Suharto Tuesday, is expected by Western diplomats to press the government to maintain the momentum of economic policy change to help boost exports and revitalise domestic industry.

Indonesia, the Third World's sixth largest debtor, has received \$10.7 billion from the bank over the past 20 years.

The Jakarta Post newspaper urged Mr. Conable to prod President Suharto's government to towards further economic change.

Mr. Conable declined to give details of Monday's two-hour meeting, attended by all ministers connected with development and the economy. National Development Planning Minister Johannes

Sumarlin said only that the session has been "good."

On arrival in Indonesia on Saturday, Mr. Conable said the economy was being well managed, but the fall in oil prices called for major policy adjustments.

"He has come at a time," the Jakarta Post said, "when the Indonesian economy is suffering from fiscal restraints due to drastically declining oil revenues, increasing unemployment, marketing problems for its major export commodities and a bureaucratic system that still has not acquired the aggressiveness and imagination to respond to this crisis situation."

Diplomats expect Mr. Conable to be guarded in his public statements, but to push during his talks for further measures to dismantle Indonesia's high-cost protected economy.

The government has responded to the oil crunch, which slashed the value of Indonesia's oil and gas revenues by 50 per cent, by devaluing the currency, attempting to boost exports and foreign investment, while bridging its deficit with foreign borrowing.

Total overseas debts amount to around \$37 billion, with debt repayments and servicing taking a third of the budget in the coming financial year starting April 1.

Cardinals meet to discuss Vatican's critical cash bind

VATICAN CITY (R) — Cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul to oversee Vatican finances Monday began a three-day meeting as the Holy See prepared to make a fresh appeal to the world's Roman Catholics to stem growing deficits.

It is the finance commission's first meeting since Italian magistrates issued arrest warrants last month for Archbishop Paul Marcius and other Vatican Bank officials over the 1982 crash of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano but a Vatican spokesman said the affair "is not on the agenda."

Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, a commission member, has been in the forefront of churchmen who have called for clarity in Vatican finances. Ten of the 14 commission members are attending the meetings with top Vatican officials.

Cardinal Krol told reporters over the weekend that the commission had decided at its last meeting in October to send all the world's bishops audited Vatican budgets for the years up to 1984, and provisional figures for the years since.

The information, which was not yet been sent, is intended to help the bishops better understand the Holy See's financial problems and explain the need for more contributions from the faithful, Vatican sources said.

The Holy See's budget deficit for 1985 grew to about \$39 million, about \$11 million over 1984. The 1986 deficit has been projected at \$56 million.

The budget concerns the church's Central Administrative

Bureaucracy, including departments for religious, diplomatic and social affairs, its radio station, newspaper and publishing house.

In recent years it has been partly covered by "Peter's pence," the annual collection in world churches for the Pope's use. The fund, which was used for missions and charities before the Vatican's recent financial problems, amounted to \$28.5 million in 1985.

Because contributions from the faithful have had to be used to cover deficits, there have been strong calls for the Vatican to publish detailed breakdowns of the Holy See's budget instead of only general figures for income and expenditures.

"My argument has always been that if you want to keep this private you can do so if you pay your own bills." But "if you're making an appeal, then credibility demands that you explain why," Cardinal Krol said.

After past commission meetings the Vatican has issued sparse budget figures and appealed to Catholics for greater generosity to help defray costs.

Vatican sources have said the Pope may this year order that full details of the budget be published for the first time but it was still not clear if this would occur after the meeting.

The Vatican Bank, which handles funds for church organisations, has no part in the Holy See's budget and is not responsible for recent deficits.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One sterling	1.6150/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3078/83	Canadian dollar
	1.8200/10	West German marks
	2.0560/70	Dutch guilders
	1.5250/60	Swiss francs
	37.70/73	Belgian francs
	6.0610/40	French francs
	1294/1296	Italian lire
	150.47/54	Japanese yen
	6.3640/90	Swedish crowns
	6.8825/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.8480/8530	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	406.40/406.90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Light profit-taking in thin afternoon trading tipped share prices back from the all-time highs set at midday. By 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up nine points to 2,026.5, having touched a high of 2,028.1 at 1242 GMT. The previous intra day high of 2,021.5 was recorded on March 4.

Dealers said caution at the beginning of the new two week account period and uncertainty following three weekend opinion polls of U.K. voting intentions depressed shares early on.

But belief that the ruling Conservatives will retain power at a general election, forecast for some time this year, later prevailed and helped push prices into record territory.

One of the weekend opinion polls put the opposition Alliance parties second behind the Conservatives raising fears that the Conservatives might have their majority cut back at the next election and be hampered in governing the U.K.

A continuation of Friday's record-breaking form early on Wall Street Monday was instrumental in helping shares appreciate afresh toward the late afternoon, dealers said.

Market prices are strongly underpinned around Monday's levels and currently reflect the belief U.K. clearing bank base rates will soon fall by another 1/2 of a percentage points to 9 1/2 per cent, into single figures for the first time in over two years.

Horoscope and Crosswords not received

Dollar slides as dealers test currency accord

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell Monday to its lowest on the foreign exchanges since six leading industrial nations agreed in February to stabilise currency values, a pact that the market may now be about to test.

Dealers said the dollar briefly touched a low of 1.8180 West German marks, before recovering to just above 1.82 in the middle of the day. That compared with 1.87 marks less than two weeks ago.

In Tokyo, the dollar slipped below 151 yen for the first time since Jan. 28 to end the morning there at 150.88, down more than a half yen from Friday. The dollar later eased in Europe to 150.70 yen.

Gold, to which some investors resort in times of dollar uncertainty, edged higher to be fixed at \$406.60 an ounce in London, compared with a previous fix of \$404.45.

Dealers said some speculators were selling dollars, beginning to

test the industrialised nations' resolve to keep currency markets stable. The leading central banks could, if they wished, iron out disruptive dollar swings with big buy or sell orders.

Finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Canada met in Paris on Feb. 22 and said they favoured stabler currencies. That followed a sharp slide by the dollar in the first weeks of 1987.

Since the Paris meeting, foreign exchange dealers have been guessing on whether the finance ministers' accord also included a secret pact to coordinate central bank intervention to stop the dollar renewing its tumble. And if it did, what rate would trigger it?

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The dollar, which was more than two marks in mid-December, plunged to 1.7860 marks in January because of the sluggish performance of the U.S. economy.

The dollar fall was apparently encouraged by the United States, which hoped it would make its exports more competitive and help correct a trade deficit which in 1986 hit \$170 billion.

At the Paris meeting, the main trading surplus nations, Japan and West Germany, promised the United States that they would stimulate their economies to absorb more imports. And the United States joined in the pledge to stabilise the dollar.

The dollar then rebounded and rose to a high of 1.8715 marks on March 11.

But since then it has eased again, with the fall accelerating Monday down to around 1.82 marks, and dealers said it now looks as if the market — which still thinks the dollar may be

overvalued — might be about to make its first serious test of the central banks' post-Paris resolve. Speculators who were inclined to sell dollars, however, remained wary that, if they did so, they could be "burned" by snap central bank purchases.

The European market Monday was partly driven down by earlier dollar selling in the Far East. The tone of the market was described as jittery and cautious.

Another factor which helped push the dollar lower was a comment by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in an interview on British television.

A remark by Mr. Baker that the leading industrialised nations did not set a target exchange rate for the dollar in Paris on Feb. 22 was taken as a sign that the United States might still want a weaker dollar, dealers said.

The dollar has fallen about 40 per cent over the last two years, mostly because of the September 1985 Plaza agreement in which

the Group of Five nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France — agreed that it was overvalued.

The Reagan administration counts on improved trade figures to help it ward off congressional demands for legislation to limit imports.

Japan and West Germany, whose economies rely heavily on exports to the United States, are worried that further declines in the dollar will cause them serious damage.

At the Paris meeting, the Reagan administration agreed to stabilise the dollar in exchange for policies by Japan and West Germany to stimulate home demand in their economies so that they absorb more foreign goods.

But U.S. officials indicated that Japan and West Germany had to deliver or their side of the bargain to be sure that the United States would help arrest any new dollar fall.

African states reaffirm need for debt relief

TAUPO, New Zealand (R) — Debt among African countries will continue to grow and their economies will remain stifled unless developed countries lower their interest rates, Nigerian Trade Minister Samaila Mamman said Monday.

In an article in Monday's edition of the Miami Herald, Mr. Baker also criticised the concept of short-term debt relief, calling it a "dramatic, overnight solution."

"While these ideas may be well-intentioned and have some political appeal, they are impractical and counterproductive in the long run," he said.

The article written by Mr. Baker, chief architect of the U.S. strategy on Third World debt, was published to coincide with a three-day meeting here of the IADB.

Last month, Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor nation, declared a moratorium on interest payments due to its foreign bank creditors for the first time since announcing the moratorium, says it will not sacrifice growth to pay its debt.

There are also differences between the United States and Latin America over Washington's proposals for reforms to the 27-year-old institution, which has traditionally been dominated by Latin Americans.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the report said, the average income was \$3,085 in 1980 and fell to \$2,375 by 1985. The average Haitian had only \$359 — less than \$1 a day — in 1980. By 1985 that had dropped to \$315.

In the United States, average 1984 earnings were \$15,390, and in Switzerland \$16,330.

Only three Latin American countries — Brazil, Colombia and Panama — had higher average incomes in 1986 than in 1980.

The report found that the area continued emerging from deep depression during the year, growing at a rate of nearly four per cent, a little better than 1985's 3.5 per cent. But in two countries, Mexico and Suriname, there was a decline of four per cent.

Trade protection by industrial countries, as well as falling commodity prices, meant that exports fell to less than \$80 billion in 1986 from \$98 billion in 1984, he said.

Mr. Ortiz Mena noted that lower interest rates last year brought \$5 billion in savings to the region but this was largely offset by lower commodity export prices.

At the same time, credit flows proved insufficient to compensate for the interest payments and capital remittances.

The net flow of foreign capital into Latin America has approached \$7 billion a year during the past four years — a far cry from the bountiful stream which flowed during the mid-70s and peaked at \$49 billion in 1981, he said.

Investment has stagnated, remaining at mid-60s levels between 1984-86, bringing the region's economy virtually to a standstill, he said.

"The long-term solution to Latin America's foreign debt

problem lies in development and rapid recovery of economic growth in the region," he said.

Baker affirms stand against forgiveness of debt.

On the other hand, Mr. Baker said Sunday night that any attempt to declare across-the-board debt forgiveness for major Latin American debtor nations might damage the world economy.

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But the developed market economy countries have slowed down output growth thereby drying up markets for the commodity exports of African countries.

"With the best of intentions Africa cannot attain a three to four per cent GDP growth rate if the current high level of debt persists," Mr. Mamman said.

He said a special case for Africa should be made. Developed countries should appreciate Africa's critical economic situation and seek alternatives to policies which had resulted in the transfer of resources from Africa and increased indebtedness.

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Filipino army captain arrested for military academy bombing

MANILA (R) — An army captain was arrested Monday over the bombing of the Philippine military academy, which was described by President Corazon Aquino as an attempt to assassinate her.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said he had ordered the arrest following the seizure by a military team of grenades and rounds of ammunition from the house of the unnamed captain. Investigators said the captain was an instructor at the academy and was familiar with firearms and explosives.

Four people were killed and 40 injured last Wednesday when the blast partly wrecked a grandstand where Mrs. Aquino was due to review graduating troops Sunday. Gen. Ramos told reporters the suspected involvement of the captain "appears to be the most likely and plausible lead" in the bomb blast, near the mountain resort town of Baguio.

He said the officer had been held informally by the military since he was interrogated after the bombing.

Three other soldiers have also been held since facing questioning after the bombing, but they were not charged Monday.

Gen. Ramos said investigators had not discounted other theories, which earlier included the complicity of Communist guerrillas. The Communist New People's Army has denied any involvement.

Baguio regional military commander Brigadier-General Jesus De La Cruz told reporters investigators had found in the captain's house 30 rifle-propelled grenades, six M-203 grenades, a fragmentation grenade, a detonator, boxes of M-16 bullets and a roll of electrical wire.

The captain, Gen. De La Cruz said, told investigators the items seized from his house were being used by cadets in their training.

Gen. De La Cruz earlier said

Soviet anti-tank explosives used in the blast was part of an arms shipment from China intended for rebels but intercepted by the military.

The Soviet explosive was said by investigators to have formed one of three bombs that exploded nearly simultaneously. The others were United States-made.

Mrs. Aquino, who said Sunday the bombing was the greatest threat to her life in the 13 months of her presidency, hinted on Saturday that certain military officers still loyal to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos could have been behind the bombing.

She described the incident as a "dastardly act of cowardice" and vowed to "permanently end all threats to freedom" by the close of her six-year term as president.

Col. Oscar Canlas and his men appeared for the first time before a three-man military investigating panel to say why they should not be charged with mutiny.

Col. Canlas led a 61-hour military tribulation against rebellious soldiers.

"under the articles of war." They said no more specific charges had yet been filed against him.

The elite academy has been regarded by some military analysts as a major site of lingering anti-Aquino resentment.

It played heavily against the country's new constitution in a referendum last month widely seen as a vote of confidence in her leadership. Its former superintendent, General Jose Zuniel, is in bidding, sought by the authorities for involvement in alleged coup plots.

The military brought a colonel and 70 soldiers before investigators Monday in its first major step to comply with Mrs. Aquino's order to punish coup plotters.

Mrs. Aquino has vowed retribution against rebellious soldiers.

Col. Oscar Canlas and his men appeared for the first time before a three-man military investigating panel to say why they should not be charged with mutiny.

Col. Canlas led a 61-hour military tribulation against rebellious soldiers.

China, Portugal to sign Macao pact on Thursday

PEKING (R) — Details of Monday's agreement to hand over Portuguese-ruled Macao to China will be released after the official signing in Peking on Thursday, Portuguese Ambassador to Peking Octavio Valerio said.

Mr. Valerio earlier told reporters that the tiny territory would be returned to Chinese rule on Dec. 20, 1999, but gave no further details.

A statement issued at 5 p.m. Monday (0900 GMT) did not give details of the agreement as earlier expected.

China has said repeatedly it wants Macao returned to its control before the end of the century.

"We are very happy with the results," Mr. Valerio said after four days of negotiations in the Chinese capital. The talks were the fourth in a series on the Macao question.

The talks had been expected to focus on the status of the 40,000 Portuguese passport-holders among Macao's 400,000 residents.

Asked if the issue of nationality after the Chinese takeover had

been a problem in the talks, Mr. Valerio replied: "It was one of them."

China traditionally opposes granting dual nationality to its citizens and requires holders of foreign passports to give up their Chinese citizenship.

The Peking government wanted to obtain a settlement on Macao in time to announce it at the 1987 session of its National People's Congress, or parliament, which opens on Wednesday.

Lisbon does not dispute China's claim to the territory on the South China coast, controlled by Portugal for more than 400 years, and is believed to have offered to hand it over twice before.

The 1984 Sino-British agreement providing for the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 paved the way for formal talks, which began last year on Macao's future.

"Our visit has been very cordial and harmonious," said Mr. Valerio after the final four-day round of Peking negotiations.

Another contra leader quits umbrella group

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The leader of the Nicaraguan rebels' southern fighting force says he is quitting the main contra umbrella group, charging that a "clique" has seized control of the anti-Sandinista movement.

Fernando Chamorro, who also leads one of several anti-Sandinista political parties in exile, is the third major rebel figure in recent weeks to announce his resignation from the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO).

His departure also adds further to the disarray on the contras' southern front, where bickering over shares of U.S. aid has resulted in formation of numerous military splinter groups.

Chamorro's brief statement Sunday followed the weekend revelation that U.S. Lt.-Col. Oliver North arranged for two rebel political parties to receive \$100,000 in private donations from the fall of 1985 to October 1986.

Alfonso Robelo, one of the United Nicaraguan Opposition's three directors, said the money was "split in equal parts" between his own party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, and Chamorro's Nicaraguan Democratic Union.

Both parties were members of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, made up of about 12 labour, business and political groups brought together by the U.S. government in early 1985 to coordinate the fight against Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Chamorro could not be located Sunday to comment on the report or to elaborate on his resignation.

His statement said he was taking both his party and his Nicaraguan Revolutionary Armed Forces out of the umbrella group because he did "not want to play into the hands of... personalities in an arriviste (upstart) clique that has appointed itself leader of the Nicaraguan resistance."

Chamorro said he mentioned no names.

Tutu mission offers little chance of guerrilla truce

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anti-apartheid campaigner Archbishop Desmond Tutu has apparently failed to persuade black militants to halt their guerrilla war in South Africa.

Tutu, back home Monday after a surprise weekend peace mission to Zambia, conferred with South African guerrilla leaders in a trip that appeared likely to embroil him in further dispute with the Pretoria government.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who advocates non-violent methods in the black struggle against apartheid race discrimination, urged African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla leaders in Lusaka to consider a ceasefire.

The ANC, which has waged a spasmodic bombing campaign in South Africa, responded that armed struggle was forced on the organisation, Tutu said.

Both groups (the ANC and Pretoria) are holding pistols to one another's head," Tutu told reporters on his return.

Tutu's trip was announced as he took off for Lusaka on Friday night. There was no reaction from Pretoria over the weekend but the white-led government was expected to denounce the talks.

He attacked previous visits to ANC headquarters by politicians and businessmen and the

mission came at a time when the government is stepping up anti-ANC propaganda.

The ruling National Party (NP) is seeking to make security a big issue in the campaign for next May's whites-only general election. Statements by the ANC leadership are banned in South Africa and recently Pretoria used emergency powers to outlaw advertisements which explain the organisation's aims.

Tutu hugged ANC President Oliver Tambo in Lusaka and told reporters here that it was an impressive organisation.

"These are not blood-thirsty vampires but people who love South Africa ... It saddens me that people in this country are not given opportunity to encounter the ANC as they really are," he said.

He reiterated he shared the ANC's objectives but not the use of violence. The archbishop commented that while Pretoria says the ANC has killed more than 80 people in South Africa since 1976, it acknowledges its own troops have shot dead over 1,000 in curbing black political unrest.

Tutu said in Lusaka he also discussed black-on-black violence that has wracked South African townships and the forthcoming election.

8 Sri Lankans killed as hopes for peace talks revive

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Eight Sri Lankans were killed in clashes between troops and rebels even as hopes for renewed peace talks last year in the Dutch embassy in Jakarta, is attempting to use its membership of the European Community to broaden support on the issue.

Diplomats say that Portugal, still recognised by the United Nations as the administrative power in East Timor, is trying to get the community to back its demand that the 600,000 East Timorese be granted the right of self-determination.

Other community members are reluctant to be dragged into a Lisbon-Jakarta dispute when they are trying to win lucrative trade deals with Indonesia.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1975, saying the Portuguese had abandoned their responsibilities on the island, which grows good quality coffee.

Sources said Lands Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake would resume negotiations between India and Sri Lanka, which broke off 10 days ago.

The independent Colombo newspaper the Sun reported Monday that Mr. Dissanayake was expected to leave for New Delhi this week for talks aimed at a ceasefire.

India last month announced it would only resume mediation between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil rebels if Colombo lifted a fuel and communications embargo on the rebel-controlled Jaffna peninsula, suspended military operations in the north and east and adhered to proposals agreed in December as a basis for peace talks.

Sri Lankan troops are trying to quell a guerrilla war launched in 1983 by minority Tamils for a separate homeland in the northern and eastern provinces.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

1st test tube quadruplets born in Hamburg

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — West Germany's first test tube quadruplets were born in Hamburg's University Clinic, a spokesman has said. He said the 29-year-old mother could not conceive naturally because of a deformation of her Fallopian Tubes and the in vitro method was used to fertilise several eggs which were removed from her ovaries. The fertilised eggs were then replanted, he said. The three girls and a boy are healthy but will have to spend some time in an incubator because they weigh only between one and 1.2 kilograms, he added.

New zoo opened in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — A new zoo, with about 850 animals from over 100 different species, was opened here by Riyadh's governor Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. It cost 125 million riyals (\$34.4 million) to build and replaces an older enclosure. Saudi Arabia has two smaller zoos at Jeddah and Taif in the western province.

A Room With a View wins award

LONDON (R) — The popular British film *A Room With a View* has gained top honours from the prestige British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Based on E.M. Forster's novel of the same name about Edwardian social convention standing in the way of young love, it was named best film for 1986. Maggie Smith won the Best Actress Award for her role as the heroine's prudish chaperone and Judi Dench took Best Supporting Actress for her performance as a flamboyant romantic novelist. Bob Hoskins, a nominee for an American Oscar, was voted Best Actor for his role as the minder to a young London prostitute in *Mona Lisa*. American film-maker and Actor Woody Allen picked up two awards for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay in *Hannah and Her Sisters*. The accolade for Best Supporting Actor went to Ray McAnally who played a cardinal in *The Mission*, a film about the struggle between church and state during Spain's imposition of Catholicism on Latin America.

Church of England ordains 71 women

LONDON (R) — The largest ordination of women in Christian history took place at London's St. Paul's Cathedral. The Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Graham Leonard, ordained 71 women deacons — who can carry out all the duties of a priest except formal blessings, communion and absolving sins. The ordination follows a controversial Church of England synod vote last month to draw up legislation for the ordination of women as priests. Bishop Leonard is in favour of women deacons but was among opponents of their ordination as priests. The opponents said the 400-year-old Church of England would face a serious split if the legislation went through. Women have been accepted as deacons in the Anglican Church since 1980. Church officials say it will be another five years before ordination of women priests begins.

Gummen steal \$2m worth of jewelry

NEW YORK (R) — Two robbers fled with five cartons of gold jewelry valued at \$2 million after a daylight holdup at a wholesaler, police said. A spokesman said the robbers took earrings, necklaces, gold chains and spools of gold chain wire from the G T Chains Company in Manhattan after forcing the owner to open the vault at gunpoint. The owner and eight employees were handcuffed or tied by the gun-wielding robbers who loaded the jewelry in boxes onto a trolley and fled in a car, police said.

Zia revokes flogging orders

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq has revoked flogging sentences ordered by military courts before he ended martial law 15 months ago. A government statement said the remission, granted to mark National Day Monday, would apply to all military court cases of... convicts undergoing imprisonment." Gen. Zia also ordered one month's remission in prison sentences passed by military court except those for "subversion, anti-state activities and espionage," it said. No official estimate was immediately available of the number of prisoners that would benefit from the remission, the first given by Gen. Zia since he ended eight and a half years of martial law in December 1985. But a spokesman for the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said earlier that 200 political prisoners sentenced during the martial law regime were still in jail.

AIDS menace breaks Confucian taboos

SEOUL (R) — Lovers in Confucian South Korea still face arrest for kissing in the street, but the AIDS threat is rapidly breaking down age-old taboos preventing public discussion of sex. A Health Ministry booklet issued Monday reassures Koreans they will not catch the killer disease by kissing or shaking hands, swapping glasses at parties or visiting bathhouses. The ministry, which plans to distribute 600,000 booklets, warned people against sharing a toothbrush or a razor and against sexual contact with strangers. The menace of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which stops the body fighting infection, has been taken seriously in South Korea since the death in February of a 62-year-old man suspected of carrying the virus. His was the country's first AIDS-linked death. Two men and three women are known to be ill with the disease. Fears of an AIDS epidemic in South Korea, which hopes to welcome many thousands of foreign tourists next year for the Seoul Olympic Games, prompted the government recently to announce plans for a tough anti-AIDS law. The measure would punish anyone responsible for spreading the virus with up to two years in jail.

French anti-porn drive called a 'mistake'

PARIS (R) — French Culture Minister Francois Leotard, distancing himself from a government anti-pornography drive, has described efforts to ban certain magazines as an "astonishing political error." Speaking in a radio interview, Mr. Leotard expressed embarrassment over efforts by cabinet colleague Charles Pasqua, the interior minister, to clean up France's newspaper shops and kiosks. Mr. Pasqua's ministry has already banned five sex and pin-up magazines from public display and distribution under a controversial 1949 law protecting minors. Five other publications, including the popular homosexual weekly *Gai-Pied*, the French edition of *Penthouse* and a photography journal, have been threatened with the same ban, which is usually imposed only on hard-core pornography. "It is an error to consider that the magazine photo could offend the conscience of anybody," Mr. Leotard said, describing the threat against this and 1949 legislation allows officials to restrict magazine sales by administrative order without going through the courts. The crackdown has provoked ridicule and protest across the political spectrum, with leading right-wing politicians and President Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, all voicing opposition. But Interior Minister Pasqua has pledged to press ahead with the drive, telling Gaullist Party militants: "As long as the law exists, I have the duty to see it is applied."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE SKILL OF THE MASTER

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ 10 3
♦ 8
♦ A 10 4 3
♦ K 10 8 7 6 4
WEST EAST
7 5 Q 9 6 2
Q A J 7 3 2 ♦ Q 9 6
3 9 8 5 ♦ 7 2
♦ 9 3 ♦ A J 2
SOUTH
A K 8
K 10 5 4
Q K Q J 6
Q 5

The bidding:
West North East South
2 ♦ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 3 ♦ Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♦

If, ten years ago, you had taken a poll to find the world's best bridge player, Giorgio Belladonna would have been one of the favorites. Although he plays little competitive bridge these days, this hand proves that he has not lost any of his skill. West's weak two heart opening bid made life difficult for Belladonna in the balancing seat. He tried to

solve his problem by first making a takeout double and then bidding three no trump over North's three club response.

The top-of-nothing opening lead did not do anything to help declarer's cause. Declarer won in hand and led the queen of clubs, continuing the suit to the ten when East held up. East took his jack and returned a heart, covered by the ten and won with the jack. West reverted to a diamond, taken and won the ten.

Mr. Febres Cordero was kidnapped and held briefly in January by commandos loyal to an air force general who tried to overthrow the government a year ago. His four-year term ends in August 1988.

Mr. Febres Cordero was surrounded by tight security following violent student demonstrations last week against austerity measures that included increases in the price of fuel and public transportation.

Indonesian foreign minister campaigns in East Timor